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PLAN

OF

EDUCATION.

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EDUCATION.

Faculties are weaken'd and obscur'd. Our Understanding is over-clouded with Ignorance and Error; our Imagination clogg'd with gross and grovelling Ideas; our Will biass'd by strong and turbulent Passions. True Education is the Art of curing these Diseases of the Mind, so as to restore, in some Degree, our decay'd Faculties to their primitive Vigour. 'Tis then that the Understanding discovers great and noble Truths; that the Imagination paints them forth in a thousand agreeable Shapes; that the Heart attaches it-

felf to them, and becomes amiable in loving them. Thus we reinstal in their different Functions, the Philosopher, the Painter, and the Lover, of which our spiritual Nature seems to be composed. The principal End, then, of all public and private Instruction, should be, to strengthen the Judgment, to wing the Fancy, and to purify the Heart.

CHAP. I.

OF THE UNDERSTANDING.

THE Custom of Public Schools has prevailed fo much, and succeeded so well, that it were imprudent, and even dangerous, to attack the Methods there used, of employing the sirst Years of our tender Age in acquiring Languages. The Wisdom of the Ancients is, no doubt, best learnt when they are read in their own Tongue; and all Translations serve only to degrade them. An exact Knowledge of Greek and Latin is therefore the Foundation of the Learning: But since

fince youthful Minds are capable, very early, of Reason and Comparison, I believe, that, to neglect the Improvement of the Understanding, in order to cultivate the Imagination and Memory, is to lay the Foundation of a false and superficial Knowledge. Hence it is, that Men of polite Learning only, are seldom Men of a profound Genius. They can unriddle the Grammatical Intricacies of Pindar and Persius; yea, perhaps, shew, with Elegance and Taste, the different Beauties of Homer and Virgil; but then they have no Relish of Truth; they can neither rise up to First Principles, nor descend to Consequences, nor pursue a continued Chain of Ideas thro' all its various Links and Windings.

I HUMBLY therefore conceive, that it is a very great Fault not to awaken, early, the Activities of the Mind in Children, in order to Arengthen their intellectual Powers.

THE following Plan is what I would propose for the Education of a PRINCE, who may one Day govern a Nation, whose Genius is equally proper for Learning and War, and loves a King that can direct its Counsels by his Wisdom, as well as defend its Interests by his Courage.

AFTER a tolerable Knowledge of Greek and Latin, 'tis fit to begin with the Study of Mathematics, because these Sciences habituate the Understanding, by Degrees, to Penetration, Depth, and Attention, which enable it, at length, to reason closely, clearly, and strongly, upon every thing that becomes the Object of its Reflection. The first six Books of Euclid's Elements are the best Foundations of all Mathematical Learning.

THE Ancients had a wonderful Knowledge of human Nature; they faw the Extent and Bounds of our Understanding, the gradual and slow Steps that were to be made at first in these abstracted Sciences, till the Mind, accustomed to a Train of successive Reasonings, begins to enlarge its Faculties,

culties, extend its Views, and accelerate its

AFTER the PUPIL has laid in a sufficient Stock of Geometrical Principles, the TUTOR should proceed to give him some Taste of Algebra, Fluxions, and the Doctrine of Curves. Great Care, however, is to be taken, not to perplex and exhaust the Force of youthful Minds, by those nice and quaint Speculations, because, if Caution be not used, they are as dangerous in Mathematics, as the Resinements of the School-Men were in Philosophy. So soon, therefore, as the Young Prince is sufficiently initiated into these Mysteries of the sufficiently initiated into these Mysteries of the sufficiently initiated must be taught to apply all to the Knowledge of Nature, and its Operations.

THE skilful TUTOR must begin, by shewing his PUPIL the wise Institution of the first Laws of Motion; how they are the voluntary Establishments of an Intelligent Cause, and not

the necessary Effects of blind Force. He may then proceed to a general Survey of the principal Secrets, and beautiful Discoveries of Natural and Experimental Philosophy; wander over the Globe with Pleasure, and discover the Causes of the great Phænomena that appear on the Earth, in the Air, and among the celeftial Bodies. Here the Mind begins to taste the Fruits of all its laborious abstracted Speculations, and to perceive how the fublimer Geometry contributes to explain the celestial and terrestrial Appearances, according to the Principles of the great Sir Isaac NEWTON. These Principles may be reduced to a few Propositions; all the rest are but fine Silk-Webs, spun from the prolific Brain of that furprifing Genius; or perhaps Defects of Method, Perspicuity and Elegance, which the most Part of profound Men feldom or never apply themselves to

To prevent the Mind's being absorpt in these Speculations, and to detach it from an overween-

ing Opinion of its own Abilities, the following Principles are to be taught. I was and all dailing Philosophers tell well

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I. THAT the Creation is but an Image or Picture of the Divine Perfections, and therefore bears a Character of his Infinity and Immensity. That this small Part of it which we inhabit, is but a Point, in Comparison of the Solar System: That the Solar System is but a Point, in Comparison of the vast Spaces discover'd in the Regions of the fixt Stars: That these superior Regions, themselves, are but a Point, in Comparison of the innumerable Worlds that lye perhaps hid in the Bosom of Immensity. prefent every wixere, acts upon all intell

II. THAT, in this Point which we inhabit, we know only some superficial Qualities and Properties of Nature, in so far as is necessary for our present State, Conduct and Uses: That, as Sir ISAAC NEWTON faid, all the Discoveries Mortals can make, are like those of a Child upon the Borders of the Sea, who has only crack'd some Peb. bles, and opened some Shells, to see what is in them,

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while there lies beyond him a boundless Ocean, of which he has no Idea: That we can never be true Philosophers till we see the Author of Nature Face to Face; compare the Pictures with their Original; and know, by direct Intuition, their mutual Relations and Resemblances: All which are the Privileges only of pure Intelligences disengaged from Matter.

III. That the Cause of Attraction, and all the other wonderful Phænomena of Nature, depend upon the Action of an Ethereal Fluid that pervades all Things: That, as the Infinite Spirit, present every where, acts upon all intelligent Natures, and gives them at once both Being and Well-being, so this Ethereal Fluid is like the Senforium of the Deity, by which he acts upon all material Beings, as our Body is the Medium by which our Soul acts on all Objects that surround us. This seems to be the true Meaning of the Orientals, the Egyptians and Pythagoreans, when they consider'd the Divinity as the Soul of the World.

World, and this Ethereal Fluid, purer than Light itself, as the Body of God.

By these great Ideas the Mind will be elevated and dilated, and, at the same time, preserv'd from that little Vanity which puffs up vulgar Souls. It will despise all these imaginary, dark and impious Systems, that tend to explain Nature by blind Mechanical Springs, without the continual Instuence and Action of a sovereign intelligent Cause: And, in sine, it will look upon this Ball of Clay as a Prison; conceive a noble Indifference for Life; be inspir'd with high Thoughts of Immortality; and cheerfully submit to the Decrees of Heaven, when Death comes to disengage, us from the Entanglements of Matter and Sense.

CHAP. II. OF THE IMAGINATION.

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WHILE the Reason is thus cultivated and improv'd, the Sciences that depend upon the Imagination ought not to be neglected.

The Pleasing Images of Poetry; the agreeable Fietions of Mythology; the pathetic Discourses of Eloquence, serve to amuse youthful Minds, to enliven their Fancy, and to polish their Taste. In reading with them Homer and Virgil, Sophocles and Terence, Demosthenes and Green, Anacreon and Horace, they should be taught the masculine Strokes, and the finer Shades of the Grecian and Roman Paintings; the different Genius and Ornaments of Profe and Verfe; the Nature, Rules, and various Characters of Epic, Dramatic, and Lyric Compositions. By all these the Pupil will learn that the true Foundations of Stile are, strong Thoughts, noble Sentiments and lucid Order: that no Images are to be allow'd, but what are natural and proper to each Subject; that all false Delicacies, affected Antitheses, Epigrammic Points, and Italian Conceits, are to be avoided in the true Sublime. He must first think, then feel, and Words will naturally follow.

L THAT the Supreme and eternal Mind has produced numberless Orders of intelligent Natures,

of Immensity: That moral and physical Evil can't be the first Production of the sovereign Good; that therefore all Beings were, at first, created in a State of Purity and Happiness, which is called, by the Oriental's, the Egyptians, and Greeks, the Reign of Oramazes, Osiris, and Saturn, or the Golden Age.

II. That a certain Portion of these Spirits fell from their original Purity, and were condemned to inhabit mortal Bodies; the Frame of Nature was alter'd in the little Orb which they inhabit, and they were subjected to physical Evil and Sufferings, in order to punish and purify them from their moral Corruption. This State is called, by the Ancients, the Reign of Arimanius, Typhon, and the Iron Age.

III. THAT, at length, these degenerate Beings will be restored to their primitive Perfection and Happiness, called, The Restoration of the Golden Age, and the Reign of Astrea.

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UPON these great Ideas depend all the Fictions of Mythology, and prepare the Mind to relish the nobler and sublimer Doctrines of Christianity. Can any one observe the profound Genius discovered in the Ancients, the Sublimity of their Geometers, the Sagacity of their Historians, the noble Morality found in their Philosophers, and imagine they understood, in a literal Sense, all they say of their Gods and Goddeffes. The present Contempt of revealed Religion comes, for the most part, by confounding the pure, genuine, original Doctrines, with the vain Speculations and Gloffes of the School-Men. As the Heathen Poets degenerated, by Degrees, from the true Theology, fo have the Christian Divines, of all Communions, departed, in many Things, from the true Spirit and the brompfore. of Religion.

To the Study of Poetry should be join'd that of the three Arts of Imitation. The Ancients represented the Passions, by Gests, Colours, and Sounds. Xenophon tells us of some wonderful Effects

Effects of the Grecian Dances, and how they mov'd and express'd the Passions. We have now lost the Perfection of that Art; all that remains, is only what is necessary to give a handsom Action and Air to a young Gentleman. This ought not to be neglected, because, upon the external Figure and Appearance, depends often the Regard we have to the internal Qualities of the Mind. A graceful Behaviour, in the House of Lords or Commons, commands the Attention of a whole Assembly.

A Taste of Painting is not to be neglected. It is a Sort of Poetry to the Eyes. We have scarce any Remains of the ancient Painting; but the Grecian Statues, Cameo's and Entaglio's, preserved to this Day, were the Models that Raphael, and all the great Painters, studied. Of these antient Statues and modern Pictures, Drawings or Prints may be had, and should make, some times, the Amusement of a young Prince. He may be shewn therein the sine Imagination of the Painter, the

the beautiful Symmetry and Composition of the Parts, the noble and genuine Expression of Nature, both animate and inanimate, the Connection of the Design, and the wonderful Effects of Light and Shade.

A Relish of Music elevates and refines the Soul, and ferves as a pretty Amusement to the Intervals of Business. I have no Skill of it myfelf, and therefore can't pretend to decide any Thing about it. The Italians, no doubt, excel all Nations in the Diversity and artful Contexture of Sounds; but I have heard fay, That they now study more to please the Ear than to paint Nature, whereas the ancient Greeks furpassed both in Variety and Expression. Great Care, however, is to be taken, that a young Gentleman, NOBLEMAN, or PRINCE, don't yield themselves up to these Amusements. Nothing is more dangerous, and nothing incapacitates a Man more for Business. If these accessory Accomplishments be made the End of Study,

young Gentlemen become mere Triflers, lose their Taste of the fublimer Sciences, and even of the great Duties of Life. 'Tis rather a Taste than a thorough Skill of these Amusements, that becomes a Prince, or a Man of Quality.

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OF THE HEART.

WHILE the Imagination and Understand, ing are thus polished and strengthned, by a due Mixture of classical and philosophical Learning, the Morals are to be perfected, and such Sciences taught, as give us a true Knowledge of God, ourselves, and our Fellow-Creatures.

I. THE Study of Nature, and all the Marks of infinite Power, Wisdom and Goodness, diffus'd through the Universe, give us a great Idea of its Author. By this we discover, according

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to the Expression of the Ancients, the infinite Skill of the first and sovereing GEOMETER, who created and disposed all Things with Order, Measure and Proportion. This is the Use that is to be made of Mathematics and natural Philosophy: But then the Mind of a young Gentleman, improv'd and fortify'd by these rational Sciences, ought not to stop at the Proof of a DEITY, drawn from material Nature and the visible Creation. He should be taught to enter into himself, and consult the Idea of Infinity, which we can never banish from our Minds, and that feems congenial to our spiritual Nature. By this he will foon see, that the first Being is the Life, Light, and Love of all intelligent Natures; that they receive from him, at every Moment, their Being, their Reason, and their Felicity; that he could create them for no other End, but to make them eternally happy in the Contemplation and Love of his infinite Perfections.

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II. By these sublime Ideas of the Divine Nature, we will foon find in ourselves, and in all Beings that furround us, manifest Characters of Moral and Physical Evil, of Strong Paffions that contradict Reason, and inevitable Sufferings that hinder our compleat Happiness; and thus have a clear invincible Demonstration, from the Idea of Gop, and the Knowledge of our own Nature, that we are degenerated, and fallen from our first original Purity. That the fovereign Good being more intimately present to our Souls, than ever we are to ourselves, we ought, in all Times, and on all Occasions, to lay open our superior Faculties to his pure and intellectual Influences, that so he may restore our laps'd Powers to their primitive Health and Strength; make us imitate his Divine Perfections, and transform us into his Likeness. By this vital and central Conversion of the Soul to its first Principle, we will come to a true Knowledge of ourselves; descend more and more into our spiritual Nature; discover all the Foldings and Windings of Self-Love; fee the Impurity of common and false Virtues; learn, by Degrees. to rife above ourselves and all created Natures: and be prepared, upon the Dissolution of this mortal Body, to be reunited to our Source and Centre. Thus we will be equally preserved from Incredulity and Superstition, from Irreligion and Enthusiasm; the Soul will bring forth, as Plato fays, not the Shadows of Virtue, but the Virtues themselves, because we will look upon nothing as fuch, but what tends to exalt our intelligent Natures, to purify the Heart, and divinize the Soul. We will learn to distinguish betwixt the Religion of the Means, and that of the End; the Forms, and the Essence; the Substance, and the Ceremonies; and thus rise above all the little Prejudices and Passions of Sect and Party.

III. FROM these same Principles are derived all the Moral and social Duties both of private and publick Life. We will become true, just, and good, from a Desire of imitating the sovereign Truth,

Truth, Justice and Goodness. By this noble Love of Truth, we will learn, not only all that Candour, Uprightness and Sincerity that hinder us from contradicting, by our Words and Actions, what we think and feel; but we will acquire all that noble Simplicity of Heart, which makes us speak Truth when necessary, tho' detrimental to our Interests, and injurious to our Self-Love. By this inward Principle of Justice, we will not only give to every Man what is his Due, as to the civil Rights that may be exacted by political Laws, but as to his natural Rights, where there is no positive nor human Authority that can constrain us. We will do Justice to other Mens Talents, Virtues, and good Qualities, notwithstanding Party, Country, and all the Differences in Religion and Politics. We will know how to distinguish and honour true Merit, tho' many Errors and Imperfections attend it. Finally, by an Imitation of the God-like Virtue of Goodness, we will acquire not only an universal inward Beneficence, Generosity, and disinterested GoodNature, but also that outward Politeness and Delicacy of Manners, which expresses itself by a noble Freedom and Easiness, far removed from the everlasting Ceremonies of an importunate, formal, and never-ceasing Civility.

IV. FROM the same Source flow all the great Maxims of Politics and Government. We will look upon Mankind as one great Republic, of which GOD is the common FATHER and PRINCE, and every Kingdom as a particular Family of that univerfal Republic. Hence arises the eternal, immutable Law of Nature and Nations, antecedent to all fictitious, original Contracts betwixt King and People. This Law is, that, in all Times, Places, and Circumstances, the Good of the Many is to be preferred to that of the Few, and public to private Interest. We ought not to ruin our Family, in order to gratify our own Passions; nor injure our Country, to enrich our Family; nor invade the Rights and Privileges of Mankind, to aggrandize our Counyet it ought not to be our only Love. We ought to take a more particular Care of ourselves, and those Beings to whom Nature has immediately tied us, because our Capacity of doing Good is narrow and circumscribed; yet we ought to prefer general to private Interest, because our Capacity of loving Good is boundless.

V. It will follow from these same Principles, that the Love of Order is very compatible with the Love of Liberty, and that we ought to have an equal Horror for all levelling, Anarchical Principles, as well as for despotic, arbitrary Maxims. On the one Hand, tho' it were true, that all Power resided originally in the People, yet it does not thence follow, that they have a Right to retake it when they think themselves injured by the Legislature. By this Principle all Governments might be unhinged, since proud, ambitious, bold, and turbulent Men, may very oft assemble a Mob, pretend they are the major Part

of a Nation, and that therefore they have a natural inherent Right of judging for themselves, independent of all regular Authority and Laws. To admit fuch Principles, is to change TRUE LI-BERTY into a wild Licentiousness, precipitate all Nations into a State of Anarchy, and to expose Mankind to become Savages, where Force alone prevails. Such Maxims can proceed only from a perfect Ignorance of human Nature, and of the Corruption of our Species, of which the most Part can only be governed by Obedience and Fear, and not by Reason or Persuasion. Besides, by the Nature of Things, there must be, in all Governments, a supreme absolute, fix'd, and visible Authority, whether it be Lodged in one, in few, or in many. Since the Men to whom this Authority is, and must be entrusted, are fallible, therefore all Governments, however perfect in Speculation, will be imperfect in Practice. The Thrones and Dignities, to which Kings and Princes are exalted, shew their Faults in a more conspicuous Manner than private Life. Sometimes, by the uncertain State of human Affairs, the smallest Mistakes, of the best Monarchs, have dreadful Confequences, which they could not foresee. It is, therefore, more consistent with Humanity, the public Good, and the true Love of our Country, to fuffer small Grievances from a lawful Government, than to unhinge it altogether, deliver up the Multitude to their own Furies, and embroil a Nation in Civil Wars. On the other hand, Kings and Princes may pass the Bounds of their Authority, reverse the End of all Government, and bring a Nation to ruin, by their Tyranny and Oppression. They may, instead of being the living Images of the Most High, become the Votaries and Vicegerents of the Devil. To fay, there are no Bounds to be fet to fuch Licentiousness, is to stake down Mens Minds to the vilest Slavery, and lose all Tatte of TRUE LIBER-TY, the noblest Prerogative of our reasonable Nature. Here, to teach the parafitical Principles of an unbounded passive Obedience, is equally cruel

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to Monarchs and to Mankind. Princes should be taught, on the contrary, That, to give their Will for a Rule, is to usurp the Rights of the DIVINITY, and invade the Privileges of human Fraternity: That they have no Right to act against the eternal and immutable Law of Univerfal Good: That Resistance and Rebellion will be necessary Consequences of Tyranny and Oppression: because, when Monarchs set no Bounds to their Authority, it will overflow, and hurry all before it into Confusion and Anarchy. Tho' the hereditary Right of Crowns and Dominions, feems to be founded upon a Civil Law, much like that of Lands and Estates; tho' the one was destined to bridle Ambition, as the other to curb Avidity; tho' the Salick Law is, perhaps, one of the wifest Institutions of a Nation; yet these Maxims ought to be concealed from a Young PRINCE, and especially an English ONE. He should be taught, on the contrary, that the universal, free, unbribed Confent of the States of a Kingdom, is what gives, in each Generation, the true Right

to Crowns; the hereditary Right was never exactly observed, in England, for many Generations together. These Maxims will be true Spurs to a noble and generous Mind; all other Principles may serve only to corrupt it by false Ideas, and inhuman Passions.

It is as impossible to prevent the two Extremes of Anarchical and Monarchical Frenzy, when either a pamper'd People become insolent, or when ambitious Princes are spirited by Flattery, as to bid a foaming Ocean become calm, or a raging Lion gentle. Hence have proceeded all the Difeases, Revolutions, and Catastrophes of the political Body, in all States and Ages.

The Constitution of England seems to be the most adapted to prevent these Inconveniencies. The States of the Nation, assembled in Parliament, seem to be the best Bridle of the Multitude and of Kings: But, because human Nature is weak and impersect, this excellent Constitution may be spoiled and corrupted, by Bribery, Faction.

venting such Corruptions, is by the Education of Young Princes. All other Methods may stop the Effects for a Time, but they can't alter the Cause, nor dry up the Source: And this was what induced the great Monsieur de Fenelon, Archbishop of Cambray, to write his Telemachus. Some superficial Minds look upon his Maxims as imprasticable and chimerical, tho' He really inspired them into a Young Prince, who gave all Reasons to believe, that he would have followed them, had he lived.

THE last and great Study of a PRINCE, is that of History; and this indeed should be the principle Amusement of his Life. 'Tis there he will learn, not only the Causes of the Rise and Fall of Monarchies, the Defects and Advantages of all the different Forms of Government, but also the Characters of Men, the Sport of human Passions, the Contrast of their Virtues and Vices, the periodical Returns of their Errors and Follies, and, so

to speak, the true Anatomy of Man, and of Men. It is with this View he ought to read History, and not barely to store his Memory with Facts, in order to shine in Gompany, dazzle a Parliament, and slatter a Party. He should know, above all, the History of his own Nation, and of the neighbouring Kingdoms, whose Annals interfere with His. He ought, in a particular Manner, to apply himself to the Study of what has pass'd since the Treaty of Munster, because, before that Time, the Balance of Power was not settled in Europe.

Whoever follows this Method, will have a true Idea of the Order of Sciences, and not place the fubaltern Ones in the Rank of the principal. He will make what is useful in Medals, Geography, and Chronology, subservient to History, and History to Politics, and Politics to the Good of his Country. Again, he will look upon Mathematics, Natural Philosophy, and Metaphysics, as subservient to Morality and Religion, and so concenter all his acquir'd Talents in the Know-

ledge of God, himself, and his Fellow Creatures, as the great and primary Science. By this means he will never fall into the Absurdities of false Learning, the Whims of a superficial Virtuoso, nor the Meanness of a Pedant, but acquire all the Accomplishments of a true Christian, a good Patriot, and a fine Gentleman.

It is not, however, to be imagin'd, that this Plan of Education is to be executed in any determinate Number of Years, nor that it can fucceed with every Genius. Till the Age of fifteen, a young Gentleman may be habituated to study, so as not to disgust him; but set Hours of Application are not always the most useful Moments. A skilful Tutor can instruct, correct, and improve, by a Look, by a Word, by a Tale ingeniously told; at a Table, at a Play, in walking, he may inspire the Love and Taste of great Thoughts, noble Sentiments, and a true Delicacy of Manners. Thus, his Education may be carried

ried on till twenty, without his being importuned by the formal Lessons, studied Speeches, and tedious Moralizing, of a grave, solemn, and pedantic Monitor.

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